

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 IGA-02 TRSY-11 EB-11 MC-02 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1312

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3383

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MX

SUBJECT: U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: AMBASSADOR'S ASSESSMENT

STATE PASS TO AID AND TO DOD FOR JCS

REF: STATE 31505

1. SUMMARY: I HAVE REVIEWED THE EXISTING AND PLANNED SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT REVISION OF THE POM. I AM IN ACCORD WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE THEREIN, SPECIFICALLY THAT THE MINIMAL PROGRAM OF GRANT TRAINING ASSISTANCE FOR THE MEXICAN MILITARY BE CONTINUED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DOLLAR VALUE OF THE U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN MEXICO IS SMALL; IT CONSISTS ENTIRELY OF A GRANT MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR WHICH \$100,000 WAS EARMARKED DURING FY'75, AND \$5 MILLION ANNUAL LINE ITEM FOR FMS CREDIT (WHICH HERETOFORE HAS NOT BEEN USED BY MEXICANS). ACCORDINGLY, MY REMARKS WHICH FOLLOW ARE OF A SUMMARY NATURE AS REQUESTED IN PARAGRAPH 1. B. OF REFTEL.

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3. THE OBJECTIVES SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 4. A. OF THE REFTEL

ARE ESSENTIALLY APPLICABLE IN THE CASE OF MEXICO. HOWEVER, THE GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY, MEXICO'S BASIC STABILITY, AND THE ABSENCE OF ANY DIRECT EXTERNAL THREAT COMBINE TO MAKE THE FIRST LISTED OBJECTIVE OF LESSER IMMEDIACY. BOTH IN ITS DESIGN (I.E., A PROGRAM GEARED EXCLUSIVELY TO TRAINING) AND SMALL VOLUME, THE EXISTING SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS PRIMARILY FORMULATED TO MEET THE SECOND OBJECTIVE -- I.E. TO FOSTER FAVORABLE ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE U.S. AND ITS POLICIES. I BELIEVE THAT THE HISTORY OF THIS PROGRAM STANDS AS PROOF BOTH OF THE SOUNDNESS IN APPROACH AND SUCCESS IN ACHIEVEMENT.

4. IN REGARD TO FUTURE PLANNING, A CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS PATTERNS IS BOTH HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND THE MOST (PERHAPS ONLY) FEASIBLE PROGRAM VIS-A-VIS MEXICO. THE GOM TRADITIONALLY HAS ESCHEWED BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THE PRIMARY REASONING BEHIND THIS STANCE IS A DETERMINATION TO REMAIN FREE FROM ANY CONCEIVABLE OUTSIDE INFLUENCE WHICH MIGHT ACCRUE AS A RESULT OF SUCH PROGRAMS. TO MEXICO'S GREAT CREDIT AND OUR OWN COMFORT, IT HENCE HAS NOT BEEN NECESSARY, NOR DO WE FORESEE SUCH POSSIBILITY, FOR THE USG TO ENGAGE IN BROADER PROGRAMS.

5. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING, THERE ARE STRONG ARGUMENTS FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT LEVEL OF GRANT MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE. I AM CONVINCED, AND MY COUNTRY TEAM CONCURS, THAT THE FAVORABLE ORIENTATION OF THE LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE MEXICAN MILITARY IS DUE IN GOOD MEASURE TO THE LONG TRADITION OF TRAINING BASED ON THE U.S. MODEL OR ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT UNDER U.S. AUSPICES. THIS GOOD WILL CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED, HOWEVER, AND WE ARE KEENLY AWARE OF MEXICAN SENSITIVITIES, BASED ON THE DECISION TO FOREGO SOME TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES RATHER THAN COMPLY WITH THE CUMBERSOME (AND, IN MEXICAN EYES, INSULTING) REQUIREMENT FOR A 10 PERCENT DEPOSIT. LIKEWISE, THE MEXICAN MILITARY AS A RULE WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE U.S. GRANT TRAINING AT INSTALLATIONS SUCH AS THOSE IN THE CANAL ZONE WHERE THE PROBLEM OF TOO-CLOSE IDENTIFICATION CAN BE AVOIDED.

6. IN REGARD TO FUTURE PLANNING, I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THREE POINTS:

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(A) THE MEXICAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT TRADITIONALLY HAS BEEN EQUIPPED WITH U.S.-MANUFACTURED MATERIEL. THE EXISTING INVENTORY IS GENERALLY OBSOLETE, AND RENOVATION/AUGMENTATION PROGRAMS SHOULD BE ANTICIPATED DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE PRESENT POM REVISION. I BELIEVE IT TO BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE USG FAVORABLY TO CONSIDER ASSISTING THE MEXICAN MILITARY IF AND AS OPPOR-

TUNITIES ARISE. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE WOULD BE IN THE FORM OF GRANTING FAVORABLE TERMS ON DIRECT CASH SALE OF EXCESS EQUIPMENT OR THROUGH USE OF FMS CREDITS -- I.E. NOT IN FORM OF GRANTS.

(B) SOME RECENT MEXICAN PURCHASES (ARAVA 201 AIRCRAFT FROM ISRAEL AND PATROL BOATS FROM GREAT BRITAIN) INDICATE THAT THE GOM WILL OPT FOR WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE THE "BEST DEAL" IN UPDATING ITS ARSENAL. THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS OF ANY INTEREST IN TURNING TO SOCIALIST BLOC SOURCES OF SUPPLY, AND I SEE NO SECURITY FACTORS WHICH SHOULD CAUSE US CONCERN IN THE PRESENT PATTERN OF MEXICAN ARMS PURCHASES (ALTHOUGH WE MAY ON OCCASION LOSE A COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY.)

(C) FINALLY, I DELIBERATELY HAVE AVOIDED MENTION OF PROGRAMS UNDER CONSIDERATION AIMED AT FOSTERING MORE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE MEXICAN MILITARY IN OUR JOINT ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN. I UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH EFFORTS ARE BEYOND THE SCOPE OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. HENCE, THOSE PROPOSALS ARE BEING ADDRESSED SEPARATELY.
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